

## Hang Up a Jar Instead of A Stocking

**N**O LITTLE Mexican boy or girl ever thinks of hanging up a stocking. They have something far more interesting. Three or four days before Christmas stands spring up about the alameda, or open park, without which no Mexican village is complete. All about these shops are hung the pinatas, which take the place of Christmas stockings. These are apparently great dolls 2 or 3 feet tall, dressed in tissue paper, with papier mache faces and dangling legs and arms. In reality their flowing paper garments conceal earthen jars for the holding of candies.

Sometimes the pinatas are in the form of angels or fairies, but usually they represent some person prominent in Mexico. President and Mrs. Diaz used to smile from every stand. The Mexican child may live in a hut built of flat stones piled together in a public lot, but he has his pinata at Christmas time.

In the better homes the pinatas are strung on a rope across a room. They are already heavy with their load of dulces, or candies, and they dangle somewhat dangerously over the heads of the beholders. Finally, the tallest man is blindfolded, given a stout cane and turned round and round. Leaping up, he strikes at the suspended figures. Amid shrieks of laughter and directions he keeps striking until he hits one of the jars. "Crack!" go its sides, and, being made only of baked clay, they crumble away and the sweets come pouring out. Nobody is too dignified to scramble for them. The older people are on their knees with the children. Everybody gets at least a mouthful. Then another is blindfolded, turned about and told to strike for another sugary deluge.—L. Crozer in McCall's Magazine.

## What Others Like to Eat at Christmastide

**S**PAIN loves her turkeys. Nor does she find it necessary to run them to death on the farms in order to make their meat tender, for the fowls are driven into town from long distances, and their feet are tarred to withstand the hardness of the roads. For three days before Noche Buena the streets of the cities and villages are thick with squawking poultry and bleating lambs and kids that are destined for the slaughter.

Cuba fattens up her turkeys on walnuts to make their flesh more toothsome. Mexico grinds the cooked turkey to a paste, which is mixed with chili, raisins, currants, wine and a few other ingredients into what is called mole de guajilote. France, too, although she shows her partiality for turkeys by cramming them with truffles, coquettes with her Christmas menu. Now she throws her scarf to blood red sausage, fat and juicy; now to stewed hare with unfermented wine; again to pheasants, to hazen hens, to heath cocks.

In Brittany the home cured ham gives savor to the rye bread and to the chocolate porridge, especially dedicated to Noel. In Cuba baked hams, preciously boiled in champagne and well sugared, vie for favor with a Spanish piece de resistance called "Mors and Christians," in reminiscence of a page in Spanish history, and made of black beans and rice.

In southern Italy eels, curled round with tail in mouth, defy time on the Christmas board by the emblem of eternity. In the smaller Italian cities on the day before Christmas the air is shrill and cries of kids being brought to market in panniers swung from donkey backs. Chickens, pigeons, tripe, boiling hot, are other dainties appropriate to the season, as well as turkeys, geese and calf's head.

German and Scandinavian countries are noted for the bounty of their Christmas cheer. In rural neighborhoods the tables are spread from Christmas to Epiphany. England, too, offers wide and varied hospitality. In Warwickshire, for instance, they serve roast crab apples with chine of pork and elder wine. Yorkshire has its frumenty, its Yule cakes and plum pudding. Scotland boasts one dish all her own—haddock, stuffed with oatmeal and onions.—Chicago Tribune.

# Practical Presents

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## Crow Mercantile Co.'s

Under present conditions should you not remember your loved ones and friends with things worth while—real gifts—not the frivolous kind. Gifts of merit are more appreciated and you are complying with your Government's request of "No Waste."

We suggest the following as useful presents for Christmas—

### LADIES AND MISSES

Dress Goods    Gloves    Shoes    Hosiery  
Waists    Cloaks    Table Linen    Blankets

### MEN AND BOYS

Shoes    Socks    Shirts    Ties    Gloves  
Suspenders    Sweaters    Handkerchiefs



These are only a few of the many things we have and our prices are right. We also have special bargains in our groceries and a nice line of Christmas candies to show you.

We are always glad to get your produce and pay the highest market price for same. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

## Crow Mercantile Company

Jasper, - - - Missouri

### Training Sea-Lions.

The nature of the sea-lion is peculiar. He has to be petted and encouraged at every stage of a lesson. The trainer knows that the animal is very jealous of others who get too much of the lime-light; quarrels among a troupe frequently follow. If a sea-lion is not in his proper position the act will not work. But most important of all, it is necessary to keep repeating a trick until a sea dog performs it readily. How long this sometimes takes only the young men who do this work can tell.

### For Blowing Soap Bubbles.

A recent invention has made the blowing of soap bubbles as safe and sanitary as drinking pasteurized milk. No longer need the youngster steal the soap from the laundry for his bubbles. Instead he uses tiny paper tubes purchased from the nearest drug store. These tubes contain a small piece of sterilized soap at one end. The tube is dipped in a glass of clear water. Nor is there any danger of the child's cutting himself on a broken pipe, as the tube is so constructed that it collapses under pressure.

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